

Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools

School turnaround aims to help chronically struggling schools raise their achievement dramatically. This approach targets chronically low-performing schools that need to show visible improvements within one to three years. An IES Practice Guide has identified four practices at the center of this approach.

Strong Leadership



- Signal change with new leader or new leadership practices
- Communicate clear direction and expectations
- Demonstrate instructional leadership and accessibility
- Establish connections with the community

Improving Instruction



- Examine school-, classroom-, and student-level data
- Provide targeted professional development
- Modify instruction and provide interventions
- Track progress and make adjustments

Committed Staff



- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of staff
- Redeploy or reassign staff
- Replace teachers who actively resist the change
- Recruit new staff

Quick Wins



- Identify areas that matter for rapid change
- Develop strategies for accomplishing goals quickly
- Consider goals that have worked in other schools

